



# CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE EXPERIMENT STATION

FOREST SERVICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY



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## PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN CALIFORNIA, 1941.<sup>1/</sup>

The Forest Service in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, has prepared a preliminary compilation of the results of the canvass of 1941 lumber production in California and Nevada. In view of the urgent need for 1941 production data, which will reflect effects of a full year of defense and war effort, these preliminary summaries of census returns are being made available several months earlier than in past years. Since these summaries are estimates based upon incomplete returns, they will differ somewhat from subsequent final tabulations to be prepared by the Bureau of the Census.

### Production of Lumber, Lath, and Shingles

The production statistics tabulated below are based on: (1) returns from 274 identical mills (221 in the Pine Region, 53 in the Redwood Region) which have reported for both 1940 and 1941, and (2) returns from 26 additional new mills which have reported for the first time in 1941. The identical mills comprise about 92 percent of the total number of reporting mills in 1940, and the cut of these identical mills was 93½ percent of all lumber sawed in 1940. Their reported production for 1941 has, therefore, been adjusted upward accordingly, and to this adjusted cut has been added the production of new mills in order to arrive at the estimated total production in 1941. Of the 274 identical mills, 64 reported idle in 1940 and 74 reported idle in 1941, but these idle mills are mainly small ones whose total productive capacity is relatively unimportant. In addition to the reports received from 26 new mills, of which 19 were in the Pine Region and 7 in the Redwood Region, it is estimated that there are a number of additional new mills whose reports have not yet been received.

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Lumber Sawed - M Feet B.M.  
(Mills cutting 50 M and over)

Species	Pine Region		Redwood Region		Total	Percentage change from 1940 pro- duction
	Volume	Percent	Volume	Percent	Volume	Percent
Ponderosa pine	1,103,470	65.0	920	0.2	1,104,390	+ 15.6
Redwood	320	-	3/ 456,320	84.2	456,640	+ 17.6
Sugar pine	294,570	17.3	180	-	294,750	+ 0.4
Douglas fir	167,550	9.9	72,230	13.3	239,780	+ 22.3
White fir	94,810	5.6	350	0.1	95,160	+ 43.1
Incense cedar	37,770	2.2	-	-	37,770	- 18.0
Port Orford cedar	-	-	6,080	1.1	6,030	+104.0
Sitka spruce	-	-	4,580	0.9	4,580	- 11.6
Alder	-	-	1,300	0.2	1,300	+409.8
Other species	580	-	-	-	580	(Not comparable species)
Totals	1,692,070	100.0	541,260	100.0	2,241,030	+ 14.7

In addition to the above, mills which cut less than 50 M each cut an estimated total of:

Grand total, all mills

610
<u>2,241,640</u>

1/ The Redwood Region is defined as including the following counties: Del Norte, western Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz. The remainder of the State is considered the Pine Region.

2/ Bigtree or giant Sequoia (Sequoia gigantea)

3/ Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens)

4/ Includes a small amount of California red fir (Abies magnifica) which is not produced in sufficient quantities to have established a separate market status.

5/ Includes small amounts of hemlock and western red cedar imported from the Pacific Northwest, Coulter pine, lodgepole pine and miscellaneous hardwoods such as oak, eucalyptus, walnut, and cottonwood.



## Lath and Shingle Production

Item	Pine Region	Redwood Region	Total	Percentage change from 1940 pro- duction
Lath: M pcs.	10,560	5,690	16,250	-31.9
Shingles: Squares	530	89,640	1/ 90,170	+ 2.7

## Comparative Production Since 1929

Lumber production in California (and Nevada) of all mills sawing 50 M board feet and over per annum from 1929 through 1941 is tabulated below:

Year	Lumber Sawed in M ft. B.M.	Year	Lumber Sawed in M ft. B.M.
1929	2,063,229	1936	1,647,537
1930	1,514,263	1937	1,775,734
1931	957,740	1938	1,461,961
1932	680,520	1939	1,684,694
1933	784,626	1940	1,954,500
1934	1,014,747	1941	2,241,030
1935	1,355,713		

From the preceding tabulations it is evident that the production of lumber in California in 1941 increased 14.7 percent over the production in 1940. The production in 1941 reached an all-time high, exceeding the previous high point of 2,187,959 M board feet which was reached in 1926. The long-time average production in California for the 21-year period 1920 to 1940 inclusive is 1,610,531 M board feet, and the 1941 production is 39.1 percent higher than this long-time average. The production in the Pine Region increased 13.3 percent over 1940, and that in the Redwood Region increased 19.3 percent over the preceding year. There was marked increase in the production of the principal species with the exception of sugar pine, which showed almost no change, and incense cedar, which declined 18 percent from a year ago. Port Orford cedar and alder showed spectacular increases whereas the production of Sitka spruce declined.

## Stocks of Lumber

For the first time estimated stocks of lumber are being reported in the preliminary statement because of interest in the effect that strong demands in 1941 may have had on inventories.

### Lumber on Hand (M feet B.M.)

Date	Pine Region	Redwood Region	Total
Jan. 1, 1941	576,960	273,690	850,650
Dec. 31, 1941	586,220	258,840	845,060

1/ Does not include 61,150 pieces of sawn shakes reported as such.



Inventories of lumber as reported to the Bureau of the Census for certain years from 1929 to 1941 are tabulated below:

Year	Stocks of Lumber as of January 1 (M feet B.M.)
1929	1,046,293
1938	804,938
1939	804,780
1940	893,472
1941	850,650

Lumber inventories declined 4.8 percent between January 1, 1940 and January 1, 1941. However, despite heavy orders and shipments during 1941, there was a further decline of only 0.7 percent between stocks at the beginning and end of the year. In the Pine Region stocks have increased slightly, but this is due to inventories of over 17 million feet which were reported by new mills.